

September 24, 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Jeremiah J. O'Connor (State)
Mr. Steen McCall (DOD)
Mr. Thomas Parrott (CIA) ✓
Mr. J. F. C. Hyde (BOB)

As shown by the attached correspondence, Mr. Harr has been requested by an official of the American Legion to comment on their proposed endorsement of H.R. 112, which is aimed at establishing a Joint Congressional Committee on Cold War Strategy. In view of the 1 October deadline for response, I should appreciate receiving your comments on, or concurrence in, the proposed draft reply not later than the close of business Monday, 28 September.

I shall recommend to Mr. Harr that his reply be discussed with Mr. Bryce Harlow prior to dispatch. In view of the implications of H.R. 112, you may wish to consult the legislative liaison offices of your agencies before commenting on Mr. Harr's reply.

J. I. Coffey

cc: Mr. Gordon Gray
Mr. Bromley Smith

Attachments:

From Mr. Wilson, September 14, 1959.
American Legion Resolution No. 107.
H.R. 112
Draft reply to Mr. Wilson.

DRAFT

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I have received and carefully considered your letter of September 14 requesting background information and comments on the proposed endorsement by the American Legion of House Concurrent Resolution No. 112.

I regret to say that I cannot provide any background information, as I am unfamiliar with the reasons which led Mr. Sikes to propose the formation of a Joint Congressional Committee on Cold War Strategy. Neither do I believe that I should recommend for or against the establishment of such a committee, since it would be an internal organ of the Congress and since the Executive Branch has not been requested by the Congress to take a position with regard to this Resolution. However I do believe that there are some factors which your National Executive Committee might like to consider before deciding whether or not to endorse House Concurrent Resolution No. 112.

As I am sure you are aware, the Executive Branch is directly and immediately concerned with analyzing the objectives, strategy, and tactics of Communism and with determining measures which must

Mr. James R. Wilson, Jr.
Director, National Security Division
The American Legion
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

be taken to strengthen the institutions of the free world and to further the national interests of the United States, and the various agencies of government involved already report to Congressional committees on the measures which they are taking and the programs which they are sponsoring to meet the Communist threat. The Congressional committees concerned also study on their own behalf Communist activities, measures to strengthen free world institutions, and the adequacy of national security policies and programs. Under these circumstances I should think you might want to consider whether the proposed Joint Congressional Committee on Cold War Strategy would actually cover new areas, as against those already covered by other Congressional committees, and whether the attention of the Congress and the public is not already adequately focussed on cold war strategy through the activities of these Congressional committees and of the Executive Branch itself.

I appreciate the concern for our national security which has undoubtedly motivated both Mr. Sikes and the American Legion, and am sure that this concern will be the over-riding factor in determining whether the Legion should endorse H.R. 112. Despite my inability to respond fully to your questions, I hope that my letter may be of some help to you and your colleagues in your deliberations on this matter.

Karl G. Harr, Jr.
Special Assistant
to the President

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Security Commission * 1608 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

September 14, 1959

**Mr. Karl G. Harr, Jr.
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.**

Dear Mr. Harr:

The enclosed resolution was referred from our National Convention to the Standing National Security Commission of The American Legion for further study and action, at the National Executive Committee meeting October 6-8, 1959, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

This resolution, if adopted, would become an official mandate of The American Legion. We would appreciate, therefore, as much background information on this subject as you could provide. We would also welcome any comment or recommendation you care to make.

Your attention is directed to the necessity for providing this information to us by October 1, 1959.

Sincerely,

**JAMES R. WILSON, JR., Director
National Security Division**

**JRW:poc
Enclosure**

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Col. J. I. Coffey
The White House

DATE: 25 September 1959

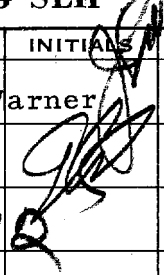
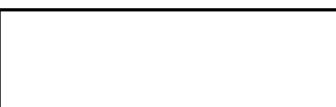
FROM : T. A. Parrott

SUBJECT: American Legion File

I have discussed the American Legion file that you sent over on the 24th of September with our Legislative Counsel and with the Director.

We feel that there is nothing in Mr. Harr's letter that would do any damage to the interests of this Agency. However, the resolution of the American Legion is quite outspokenly scurrilous about the efforts of the Administration to conduct the cold war. It would seem to us that, although we can understand Mr. Harr's reasons for not being contentious, still this sort of an answer might seem to concede tacitly that the Legion's charges have some basis.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS			INITIALS	DATE
1	Legislative Counsel - Mr. Warner				
2	221 East Bldg.				
3					
4					
5					
6					
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE	
Remarks:					
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER					
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.					DATE
BA/OCB 2038 K					25 Sept 59
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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, THE AMERICAN LEGION
Forty-First Annual National Convention, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.
August 24-27, 1959

Resolution No. 107

Subject Create a Joint Congressional Committee on Cold War Strategy

Referred to Committee on Security

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The United States has been subjected ever since the end of World War II to a new form of non-military hostility on the part of Soviet Russia and its Communists allies; and

WHEREAS, This one-sided cold war which we thus far have fought inadequately and unsuccessfully largely by passive resistance means is estimated to have cost us well over 350 billions of dollars thus far, and

WHEREAS, many experts now assure us that this cold war or fourth dimensional warfare may go on for many years, if not decades, and

WHEREAS, it is now becoming increasingly clear to all of us that national morale and will to resist is being steadily eroded away year after futile year while the Soviets and their allies as monolithic dictatorships continue to gain strength and international prestige, and

WHEREAS, it is now apparent to all discerning men that a positive, new, and dynamic counter-offensive must be instituted by a total mobilization of this country's spiritual, moral, economic, and psychological resources,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 24, 25, 26 and 27, 1959, that they support HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 112, introduced in Congress April 16th, 1959, by "Bob" Sikes (Fla.), which provides for the immediate setting up and placing in operation a new Joint Congressional Committee on Cold War Strategy to be composed of seven members from the House of Representatives and seven members from the Senate. That this Joint Congressional Committee shall be adequately financed and staffed and charged with full responsibility for initiating studies, investigations, holding hearings, coordinating all Congressional action in the area of fourth dimensional warfare.